GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:213
ANSWERED ON:05.02.2014
AUTONOMY TO COLLEGES
Biju Shri P. K.

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has granted/proposes to grant autonomy to some of the colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the guidelines laid down in this regard along with the benefits of such autonomy to the said colleges;

(c) whether the Government has consulted University Teachers` Associations and sought suggestions from the experts in this regard and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the total number of colleges which have been granted autonomy during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(e) the total funds allocated and released to such colleges since granting them autonomy?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 213 FOR 5.2.2014 ASKED BY SHRI P.K. BIJU, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING AUTONOMY TO COLLEGES.

(a) : Yes, Madam. The scheme of Autonomous Colleges is being implemented by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to provide autonomy to select colleges.

(b) As per the latest XIIth plan guidelines, available at http://www.ugc.ac.in/ pdfnews/9986207_ revisedautonomouscollegejan13.pdf, once a college attains the status of an Autonomous College, it is entitled for following privileges: have freedom to determine and prescribe their own courses of study and syllabi, restructure and redesign the courses to suit local needs; prescribe rules for admission in consonance with the reservation policy of the state government; evolve methods of assessment of students' performance, the conduct of examinations and notification of results; use modern tools of educational technology to achieve higher standards and greater creativity; promote healthy practices such as community service, extension activities, projects for the benefit of the society at large, neighbourhood programmes, etc.

The following criteria are considered for identification of institutions for grant of autonomy, namely: academic reputation and previous performance in university examinations and its academic/co-curricular/extension activities in the past; academic/extension achievements of the faculty; quality and merit in the selection of students and teachers, subject to statutory requirements in this regard; adequacy of infrastructure, for example, library, equipment, accommodation for academic activities, etc.; quality of institutional management; National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) 'A' grade; financial resources provided by the management/state government for the development of the institution; responsiveness of administrative structure and motivation and involvement of faculty in the promotion of innovative reforms.

The University Grants Commission provides financial assistance to the tune of upto Rs 15 lakhs for Undergraduate College and Rs 20 lakhs for PG and UG Colleges, eligible under Section 12B of the UGC Act, 1956 for UGC funding, apart from its regular grants. This assistance is provided for meeting the additional expenses on the following heads, namely: Guest/visiting faculty; Orientation and re-training of teachers; Re-designing courses and development of teaching/learning material; Workshop and seminars; Examination reforms; Office equipment, teaching aids and laboratory equipment; Furniture for office, classrooms, library and laboratories; Library equipment, books/journals; Expenditure on meetings of the governing body and committees; Honorarium to Controller of Examinations (full-time) not exceeding Rs. 8000/- p.m.; Accreditation (NAAC) fee; Renovation and repairs not leading to construction of a new building; & Extension Activities.

As on date there are 455 autonomous colleges (affiliated to 87 universities) in 22 States in the country (list is available at http://www.ugc.ac.in/oldpdf/colleges/ autonomous_colleges-list.pdf).

(c) The scheme has been prepared by the UGC after due deliberations. The scheme is continuing since the fourth Five Year Plan and is reviewed by the UGC before deciding its continuation to the next Plan.

(d) A total of 149 colleges have been granted autonomy during the XIth Five Year Plan. Details are available at http://www.ugc.ac.in/oldpdf/ colleges/autonomous_colleges-list.pdf.

(e) Out of 149 colleges granted autonomy during XIth five year plan, 76 colleges were eligible for special autonomy grant. These colleges have been allocated a grant of Rs.27.09 crores out of which Rs.19.84 crores have been released.